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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Rumania

SUBJECT Pharmaceutical Developments

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- Rumania's output of synthetic medicines in 1952 was ten times that of 1948, which was due in part to Soviet assistance. In the first year of the planned economy, the standardization of pharmaceutical products was completed, a plant for insulin manufacture built, and a plant for increasing production of therapeutic medicines and alkaloid extracts was extended. Increased production has made possible the export of certain products, such as aspirin. Latest successes in the development of extracts from animal organs include "conectin", "placentidin", and "placentol". Insulin production now almost covers all internal requirements, and adrenalin has advanced from experimental to industrial production.
- A "heavy synthesis" factory is planned, for producing sulfathiazole, "marfanil", antipyrine, barbiturates, anti-syphilitics, and penicillin. Fine-synthesis medicines are also to go into production, such as Vitamin B, Vitamin PP, progesterone, testosterone, etc. New medicine factories are being equipped with laboratories for the control of each charge of raw materials used, as well as of intermediary and finished products. Therapeutic efficiency is checked in the field at health units.
- Construction of the 4 main buildings of "Chemical Products Factory No. 2", at an undisclosed location, continued uninterrupted throughout the winter. A 6-kilometer railway line was completed last year for transporting building material and equipment. The concrete foundations have been poured according to the Soviet method of "heating of aggregates". Last year already workers' quarters were erected, along with a small electric power plant, a mechanical workshop, and several railway storehouses. The thermo-electric powerhouse and the compressors' building are under construction. Part of the equipment for the manufacture of penicillin has already arrived. Other antibiotics will also be produced here. This "Enterprise No. 2" will produce 18 new items this year, ten of them for the first time in Rumania. In January of this year [1954] three new items experimentally produced last fall were put into regular production: "Vitadolul", an oily solution of Vitamins A and D with lecithin, as a

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cod-liver oil substitute; Osototul, a natural calcium product for children and adults; and "Digilanul", a tonic for the heart.

4. The Institute of Pharmaceutical Research has found a method of extracting rutin (an agent against high blood pressure) from buckwheat. In the clinical experimental stage are Isotonal -- a product replacing blood plasma, and a number of 'patent medicines' against heart disease: Gitalin, Hellecard, Coramin, Caffein, etc. The extraction of alkaloids of the morphia type from opium and poppies has reached the stage of industrial planning, as have such products as barium sulphate, Vitamin B-1, chloromycetin (the first antibiotic obtained synthetically in Rumania), gentian violet (as a vermifuge), irradiated ergosterol (against rickets), etc.
5. In the stage of clinical experiment are: naphthionate of sodium, polygonum (haemostatics), relaxin, mycarin (sedatives), acetylcholine (against high blood pressure), veritol (against low blood pressure), priscol (against menard's disease), ANU (a universal local anesthetic), concentrated liver extract, and associations of vitamin C and rutin, luminal and theophyllin, etc. Products in the laboratory stage are: several against high blood pressure, hemorrhage, and cancer, as well as pain - allayers, and strong antibiotics.
6. The Bucharest Food Research Institute has developed methods of obtaining glutamic acid, betaine, and potassium salts from molasses spirit, a by-product of sugar factories. Processing methods have been established, and these products will shortly enter the semi-industrialization stage.
7. Factories throughout the country recently started production of some 40 new items, including "Cifomaltin", "Dextrimalt", "Anasept", polivitamins, etc. For 1954 plans envisage the manufacture of new products such as 'cholicitrin (a stabilized solution of choline), "rutifilin", and "rutascobylin".
8. Medicine Factory No. 1 in Bucharest, in 1953 produced for the first time in Rumania: multivitamins, hydrazide, tebezone, and P.A.S., as well as Fertonin and tetraglin. Domestically produced raw materials are used for the manufacture of tebezone and P.A.S., anti-tuberculosis agents.
9. Chemical-Pharmaceutical Enterprise No. 2 last fall developed a new method for the extraction of folliculine, which was under experiment in the laboratories. Success also attended preparation of a new item, SEMOLINE, for use in surgical interventions, after over a year's experimental work. The sericin-producing gland of the silkworm is extracted prior to formation of the cocoon. Threads are drawn from the gland to the desired thickness. Serial manufacture began last fall.
10. In a meeting of workers and technicians of Chemical-Pharmaceutical Enterprise No. 2, in Bucharest, held in November to discuss the Cabinet decision reducing medicine prices, the staff and employees pledged themselves to turn out new products replacing those still imported from abroad. They will study the possibility of producing: insulin with delayed action; a new adrenalin product in oily emulsion; ointment with a folliculin base; a product to fight common colds on a hormone basis, etc.
11. This decision of the Council of Ministers reduced as of November 15th by 30%, on the average, the retail prices of medicines, serums, vaccines, medicinal plants and teas, and radiological films. 1,200 pharmaceutical specialities were included, some reductions going as high as 60%. Crystallized penicillin was reduced 52%; streptomycin 19%; vitamin B-1 45%; insulin 30%; white sulfas 34%; phenaced 45%.
12. Industria Chimico-Farmaceutica No. 4 has started production of a new drug called "Salicylamida". Vitamin PP, "cyfoform", and "fenoiftaleina" are scheduled for this season. Already in production are P.A.S., sodium salicylate, sodium methylsulfate, saccharine, chloramine, "anti-germin", vioform, and aspirin.

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13. Medicine Factory No. 9, in addition to manufacturing artificial teeth of "acrilan", a porcelain substitute, is about to produce a new anesthetic and sedative for the use of dentists.
14. Chemical-Pharmaceutical Enterprise No. 16, at Iasi (Jassy) have produced an ointment which "prevents intoxication of workers handling dangerous substances". In August [1952] it turned out the first material for the preparation of Vitamin P, which is to go into serial production.
15. Lecithin is being produced in Rumania from soy bean oil. Its production started two years ago at the Filimon Sarbu vegetable oil factory in Bucharest, but its quality was not entirely satisfactory. At present used almost exclusively in the manufacture of chocolate products, lecithin will shortly replace cholesterol in the manufacture of cosmetics.
16. Distribution of medicines has developed greatly. Nearly 4,000 pharmaceutical units are found at cooperatives throughout the country. Similar units have been set up in industrial centers and at work sites. For miners, 14 well-stocked pharmacies were established in 1952 in mining towns.

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